



News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Joe DiLaura

Tel. 317/232-3396

Cel.317/431-4729

Southern Indiana to receive \$1.4 million aimed at creating new jobs in shortage occupations

NEW ALBANY, Ind. (June 14, 2006) – Southern Indiana will be awarded a grant from the state for \$1,387,810 to help create new jobs in the region’s advanced manufacturing and health care industries, Ron Stiver, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today.

The grant is part of the Daniels administration’s Strategic Skills Initiative, a workforce development program started last year.

“On behalf of Governor Mitch Daniels, we are excited to award this grant to help regional leaders launch several important new projects that address key occupational and workforce shortages,” Stiver said. “This grant is part of our efforts to foster growth in several industries that are critical to the region’s long term economic success.”

The grant will fund five specific solutions:

- *Industrial Technician Training* – To address several occupations in short supply in the advanced manufacturing industry, tuition assistance will be provided to workers and students pursuing associate degrees in industrial maintenance, industrial engineering technology, or machinists occupations. A total of 40 workers are projected to receive training under this proposal, with 40 placed and/or promoted in shortage occupations.
- *Advanced Manufacturing Training* – Training will be provided to prepare production workers for the Advanced Manufacturing Skill Standard Council (MSSC) certification. This certification provides workers with a portable, valid credential while addressing a regional occupational shortage in the advanced manufacturing sector. One hundred workers will be trained annually, with a projected 75 earning the MSSC Certificate.
- *Healthcare Critical Occupations Training* – To address the region’s projected shortage of health care workers, training and tuition assistance will be provided to incumbent or emerging workers pursuing a degree in medical/clinical laboratory

technician (LT) or respiratory therapist (RT) occupations. The grant will enable the training of 15 lab technicians and 20 respiratory therapists.

- *Registered Nurse Mentoring Program* -- Nurses employed at hospitals throughout the region will participate in a long-term mentoring program to increase retention rates and improve overall performance of the nursing workforce. A total of 125 mentor/mentee relationships will be established.
- *Entry Level Healthcare Worker Training* – To increase the pipeline for health care workers and fill skill shortages, the region will provide training to prepare entry level workers for higher education and increase opportunity for advancement within the industry. A total of 140 workers will receive training under this initiative.

“Taken together, these five solutions provide a creative approach in filling projected shortage occupations in the manufacturing and healthcare industries,” Stiver said. “These projects will help the region prepare Hoosiers for good paying jobs.”

Stiver praised the collaborative nature of the projects, noting that representatives from the public and private sector, labor and industry, higher education, and workforce and economic development officials all worked together to develop this proposal.

The state’s Strategic Skills Initiative seeks to identify critical occupational and skill shortages and their causes throughout the state, and then fund grants to local consortia to develop solutions that address the shortages. Last year, a grant of \$144,418 was awarded to the region for research and to identify the occupations, industries and skills projected to be in short supply. Today’s grant provides the region with funds to build on that research through specific projects which address those shortages.

The grant has been awarded to the new regional workforce board on behalf of a consortium of workforce and economic development officials from the state’s economic growth Region 10. The region consists of Washington, Scott, Clark, Crawford, Floyd, and Harrison counties

The Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana’s 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Strategic Skills Initiative

Economic Growth Region 10



Mitch Daniels, Governor
Ron Stiver, Commissioner
June 2006

About SSI

Governor Daniels' \$23 million Strategic Skills (SSI) Initiative aims to identify and alleviate job and skill shortages. The program will be carried out in Indiana's 11 economic regions through an ongoing process of identifying future shortages, determining the cause of those shortages, and developing solutions. Ultimately SSI will create jobs and increase personal income for Hoosiers.

About Region 10

- Population (July 2005)
273,337
 - Labor Force (March 2006)
142,600
 - Unemployment (March 2006)
5.9%
 - Per Capita Income
\$29,064 in 2004
- Source: www.hoosierdata.in.gov

Counties in Region

- Crawford
- Washington
- Harrison
- Scott
- Floyd
- Clark



INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 10

Economic Growth Region 10 is comprised of 6 counties. The SSI research & identification allocation awarded in September 2005 was \$144,418. The SSI solutions allocation for Region 10 awarded in June 2006 is \$1,387,810. Methods used to identify shortages and develop solutions were employer interviews; employee surveys; and, analysis of secondary and original data collected by participants.

Key Occupational Shortages

Key Occupational Shortages	Projection 2005-2007
Truck Drivers - CDL (Heavy Tractor Trailer)	195
Production Workers - Other	139
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, Brazers	39
First Line Supervisors/Managers of Production	35

Emerging Industries / Occupations

Logistics, Industrial Engineering, Maintenance Technicians

Root Causes

- Educational Capacity/Career Ladder**
 - Lack of quality faculty/staff in healthcare
 - Lack of career awareness in healthcare and manufacturing
- Pipeline and Recruitment Issues**
 - Inaccurate image of manufacturing as shrinking sector, with low wages and dead-end jobs
 - Ineffective recruiting in manufacturing field
- Wages and Benefits**
 - Low wages and perception of industry cause poor retention of production workers

Identified Solutions →

Identified Solutions

1.

Solution: <i>Registered Nurse Mentoring Program</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$63,256</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>Nurses employed at hospitals in Region 10 will participate in a long term mentoring program. The goal of the program is to increase retention rates in shortage occupations and also improve performance by connecting experienced professionals with new workers to offer guidance and support. This initiative will help prevent loss of skills and build a skilled workforce in Region 10.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 125 mentor pairs • 85 mentees complete program

2.

Solution: <i>Industrial Technician Training</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$650,000</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>Tuition assistance will be provided to workers and students pursuing Associates Degrees in Industrial Maintenance, Industrial Engineering Technology, or Machinist occupations. Training will engage incumbent and emerging workers. The advanced manufacturing training will fill shortage occupations, increase skill levels and build a workforce ready to meet the needs of emerging industries in Region 10.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 Hoosiers trained annually • 40 annually completing solution and earning degree/credential • 30 placed or promoted in shortage occupations

3.

Solution: <i>Advanced Manufacturing Training</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$325,000</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>Region 10 will provide standardized curriculum and training to prepare production workers for the Advanced Manufacturing Skill Standard Council certification. The certification provides trainees with a portable, valid credential for success in the advanced manufacturing field and fills regional occupational shortages in the region.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 Hoosier workers trained annually • 75 completing solution and earning MSSC Certificate • 20 to pursue postsecondary education • 30 placed or promoted into shortage occupations

Identified Solutions

4.	Solution: <i>Healthcare Critical Occupations Training</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$278,208</i>
	Solution Description: Healthcare Critical Occupational Training and tuition assistance will be provided to incumbent or emerging workers pursuing a degree in medical/clinical laboratory technician (LT) or respiratory therapist (RT) occupations. This initiative fills a regional skill shortage in a high wage, high skill industry.	Outcomes Proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 LT students participating• 20 RT students participating• 25 completed degrees• 35 annually to pursue postsecondary education towards completion of degree
5.	Solution: <i>Entry Level Healthcare Worker Training</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$71,346</i>
	Solution Description: Region 10 will provide entry-level training to healthcare and nursing employees. The program will prepare entry level workers for higher education and increase opportunity for advancement in the healthcare industry. Region 10 will use this solution to build a pipeline in a growing industry and fill skill shortages.	Outcomes Proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 140 Hoosier workers trained• 91 completing solution and earning Certificates of Completion and Continuing Education units• 50 will pursue postsecondary education.• 30 placed in shortage occupations

Solution Totals

\$1,387,810

440 Hoosiers trained

316 earning certificates or degree

195 placed in shortage occupation or pursuing a degree